REASONS

Humbly Offered to the

Honourable House of Commons,

Why no farther Duty or Excise be laid upon Wines.

I. THAT most of the Wines now Imported are of the Growth and Dominions of *Spain* and *Portugal*, Friends and Alieys to the Crown of *England*.

II. That they are the Product of English Manufactures entirely.

III. That the Dominions of *Spain* and *Portugal* give Consumption to the greatest part of our English Manufactures, *viz.* Bayes, Sayes, Serges, Porpetuanes, Cloth, Kersyes, Hose, Hats; All sorts of *Norwich*-Stuffs, *Welch*-Cottons, and Plaines, and many other Commodities.

IV. That the Duty on Wine is already, 18 *l. per* Tun. For which Reason, the Trade with great difficulty bears it.

V. That on the Spanish Wines there is generally Lost every Year, and more-especially the last, in the Canary-Trade, to the Value of 30000. *l.*

VI. That the *Portugal* Wines proving generally bad this Year, and more Imported, and Coming, then can be Consumed, will occasion a Loss in the General, of at least 4 *l. per* Tun, and on particular Persons, from 16 to 24 *l.* whereby not onely the Fraight of 8 and 10 *l. per* Tun, but the Principal is Lost.

VII. That this extraordinary Duty of 12 *l. per* Tun now intended to be laid, will lessen, instead of Augmenting the King's Customs, for the higher any Commodity is rais'd, the consumption will be the less, and Consequently the Importation lesser, which will have a double Influence; not only on this now intended Duty, but on the old too, and this Branch of the Revennue sinking; how far it will Post-pone the Loanes on Wine and Vinegar, may be worth Enquiry.

VIII. That it will put the *Spaniards* and *Portugues* on doing the like on our Manufactures, or which may be worse, Prohibit their Importation, by setting up Manufactures of their own.

IX. That if we do not Import the Fruites of *Spain* and *Portugal*, they cannot buy our Manufactures; so both must sink, the Revenue of the Crown be lost, and the Poor imployed in both Kingdoms undone.

X. That

X. That the laying the Great Duty on *Brazil Sugars*, was a Total Prohibition of that Commodity; and gave occaſion for the King of *Portugal* to Prohibit the Importation of Cloth, and other Goods into his Dominions.

XI. That the Wine Traders in the City of *London*, where the greateſt part of the Wines are Imported, are but a 100 Men, on whom this heavy Tax of 140000 *l. per Annum* will fall; and by that, and the great Credit they give the Vintners, they will be incapacitated to Trade.

XII. That to lay it on the Vintners, is equally the ſame thing; for they being generally in Merchants Debts, cannot be able to pay it. More eſpecially, being liable to the King's Extent; can have no further Credit, and it will have the diſmal effect to ruin and undo moſt of the Merchants and Vintners.

XIII. That the Merchants, Propoſers of this Project, being deſign'd Farmers, will firſt Ruin the Fair Traders, and afterwards Monopolize the little Trade remaining to themſelves.

XIV. That with this new intended Duty the Cuſtom will be 30 *l. per* Tun, and give encouragement to the Corruption of Officers to defraud the King of his Cuſtoms, and ſteal the whole Duty; a Practice formerly uſed by ſome Ill Men.

XV. That if this new Duty ſhould be laid, it will force Merchants to ſend many of the Ships (now expected home) to *Holland*, *Hamburgh*, and the *Baltick*, where little or no Duty is paid; which they will the rather chooſe to do, than to Import here, to pay this heavy Duty, which muſt be truſted on ſuch uncertain terms to the Vintners; and to this end, ſome Orders are gone to the *Downs* and other Ports already.

To Sum up all, it will endanger the Trade itſelf; for if this heavy Duty is laid, and a Peace with *France* ſhould enſue, it will be a means to introduce the *French* Wine-Trade again; and throw out that of the *Spaniſh* and *Portugal*, to the great Damage of this Nation; for the Project it ſelf from thoſe intended Farmers, looks like a French Trick, and inſtead of advancing the King's Revenue, will really leſſen it.

Therefore it is humbly hoped, The Honourable *Houſe of Commons* will not ſuffer the Bill to paſs.